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layer comprising materials having release properties incorporated as additives within the release layer before extrusion of the release layer, wherein said materials comprise a silicone compound; and

an adhesive layer disposed on the second side of the plastic film;

said materials being bound within the film so as to prevent substantial diffusion of said materials into said adhesive layer.

A Marked-Up Version of Prior Pending Claims 15, 23 and 31 showing the changes made is attached as Exhibit A.

REMARKS

The claims are 15, 18-20 and 22-31. Claim 15 has been amended to recite a self-carrying layer and to limit the release materials to silicone compounds. Claims 23 and 31 have also been amended to limit the release materials to silicone compounds. Claims 17 and 21 have been canceled. Reconsideration is expressly requested.

In the Final Office Action before the accompanying Request for Continued Examination was filed, claims 15, 17, 19 and 21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by *Berger et al.* U.S. Patent No. 3,726,710; claims 15 and 18-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by *Friedman et al.* EPO 622 411 A2; claims 15, 17, 19, 21 and 22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by *Higgins* U.S. Patent No. 5,932,352; and claims 15, 18, 19, 21 and 23-31 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by *Adamko et al.* U.S. Patent No. 5,948,517. In addition, claim 22 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable of *Berger et al.*, *Friedman et al.*, or *Adamko et al.*

In response, Applicant has amended claim 15 to incorporate the limitation previously appearing in claim 17 that the release materials comprise silicone compounds thereby obviating the rejection over *Friedman et al.* and *Adamko et al.* With respect to *Berger et al* and *Higgins*, Applicant's amendment in response to the First CPA Office Action dated September 25, 2002 pointed out why these references fail to disclose or suggest Applicant's plastic film as recited in claim 15. To further distinguish Applicant's invention as recited in claim 15 from *Berger et al.*

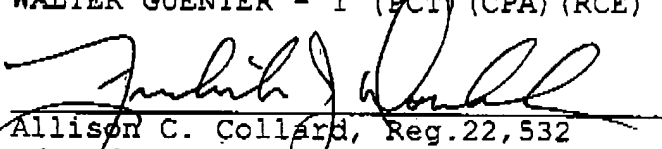
and *Higgins*, Applicant has amended claim 15 to recite a self-carrying film, which, however, can be extruded together with additional layers. *Berger et al.* and *Higgins* both require their compositions to be coated or disposed on a substrate whereas Applicant's film as recited in claim 15 as amended is formed as a self-carrying layer with the release materials incorporated therein. Hence, it is respectfully submitted that neither *Berger et al.* nor *Higgins* anticipate or render obvious claim 15, as amended, or dependent claims 18-20 and 22.

With respect to claims 23-31 which were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by *Adamko et al.*, Applicant has amended claims 23 and 31 to specify that the release materials comprise a silicone compound. *Adamko et al.*, however, is directed to a silicone free release film. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that claims 23-31 as well as claims 15, 18-20 and 22, which also specify that the release materials comprise a silicone compound, are patentable over *Adamko et al.*

In summary, claims 15, 23 and 31 have been amended and claims 17 and 21 have been canceled. In view of the foregoing,

it is respectfully requested that the claims be allowed and that the application be passed to issue.

Respectfully submitted,
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Encl: Exhibit A

Copy of Petition for 3-month Extension of time (Large Entity)

EXPRESS MAIL NO. EV 086 935 285 US
Date of Deposit: November 26, 2002

I hereby certify that this paper or fee is being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 C.F.R. § 1.10, on the date indicated above, and is addressed to the Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231.

Maria Guastella

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EXHIBIT AMARKED-UP VERSION OF PRIOR
PENDING CLAIMS 15, 23 and 31

15. (Three-times Amended) A self-carrying plastic film adapted to be releasably disposed on an adhesive, comprising materials having release properties towards adhesives, wherein the materials having release properties comprise [are selected from the group consisting of] silicone compounds[, polyolefin compounds and inorganic fillers are] incorporated as additives within the plastic film and are extruded together with said film, said materials being bound within the film so as to prevent substantial diffusion of said materials into the adhesive when said film is disposed thereon.

23. (Three-times Amended) A method of making a plastic film, comprising the steps of:

forming a mixture containing materials having release properties and polymers adapted to form a plastic film, said materials comprising [being selected from the group consisting of] silicone compounds[, polyolefin compounds and inorganic fillers]; and

polymerizing the polymers to incorporate the materials having release properties as additives into the plastic film, said materials being bound within the film so as to prevent substantial diffusion of said materials into the adhesive when said film is disposed thereon.

31. (Three-times Amended) A plastic film having a first side and a second side, comprising:

a release layer coextruded with a substrate and disposed on the first side of the plastic film, said release layer comprising materials having release properties incorporated as additives within the release layer before extrusion of the release layer, wherein said materials comprise [are selected from the group consisting of] a silicone compound[, a polyolefin additive, and an inorganic filler]; and

an adhesive layer disposed on the second side of the plastic film;

said materials being bound within the film so as to prevent substantial diffusion of said materials into said adhesive layer.